




Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
 Intramuros, Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE
 GUIDELINES IN THE CLUSTERING
 OF PRECINCTS FOR OVERSEAS
 VOTING FOR PURPOSES OF THE
 2025 NATIONAL AND LOCAL
 ELECTIONS.

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Chairman
 Commissioner
 Commissioner
 Commissioner
 Commissioner
 Commissioner

Promulgated: April 24, 2024


RESOLUTION NO. 10986

WHEREAS, the final Project of Precincts (POPs) shall be prepared and submitted by the Office for Overseas Voting (OFOV) after the last Resident Election Registration Board (RERB) hearing, per Section 44 of *COMELEC Resolution No. 10833*, for purposes of the 2025 National and Local Elections (NLE). The POPs shall be necessary for the printing and/or allocation of official ballots, election returns, other election forms, supplies, and paraphernalia, and ballot boxes. It shall also be one of the bases in determining the number of members of Electoral Boards (EBs) for overseas voting, their respective Support Staff, Automated Counting Machine (ACM) and Online Voting and Counting System (OVCS) Technical Support, and Consolidation and Canvassing System (CCS) operator to be constituted and appointed;

WHEREAS, there are currently ninety-three (93) Foreign Service Posts (Posts) for overseas voting and registration, wherein sixty-seven (76) Posts will adopt the OVCS and seventeen (17) Posts will adopt Automated Election System (AES) Voting (whether Postal or Personal), as approved by the Commission *En Banc* per *COMELEC Minute Resolution No. 24-0067 dated 02 February 2024*; and

WHEREAS, the (ninety-three) 93 Posts covering different countries/areas under their jurisdictions and with their respective modes of voting, will warrant the clustering of precincts overseas to ensure the successful, credible, peaceful, accessible, and safe conduct of the 2025 NLE.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, the Commission *En Banc*, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE as amended¹, the OVERSEAS VOTING ACT OF 2013², and other pertinent election laws, rules, and regulations, hereby **RESOLVES** to **PROMULGATE** the following guidelines in the clustering of precincts for overseas voting for purposes of the 2025 NLE, to wit:

PART I INTRODUCTION

Section 1. Overseas Voting Precinct. - refers to the groupings of overseas voters in a given country or Post designated for purposes of voting and counting.

Section 2. Project of Precincts (POPs). - refers to the data on the number of registered overseas voters assigned to their respective overseas voting precinct.

The clustering of precincts shall depend on the clustering scheme approved by the Commission *En Banc* for a particular election.

PART II CLUSTERING OF OVERSEAS VOTING PRECINCTS

Section 3. Guidelines in the Clustering of Overseas Voting Precincts for AES (Postal or Personal). In the clustering of overseas voting precincts for the 2025 NLE for AES Posts, each precinct shall have **no more than two thousand (2000) voters per country/jurisdiction per Post**, regardless of the modes of voting to be adopted (whether Postal or Personal Voting).

Section 4. Guidelines in the Clustering of Overseas Voting Precincts for OVCS. In the clustering of overseas voting precincts for the 2025 NLE for Posts adopting OVCS, the following guidelines shall be observed:

¹ Batas Pambansa Bilang 881, as amended.

² Republic Act (RA) No. 9189, as amended by RA No. 10590.

- (a) For countries with only one (1) Posts, there shall be only one (1) precinct, regardless of the number of registered overseas voters;
- (b) For Posts with multiple countries or jurisdiction, there shall be one (1) precinct per country under said Post, regardless of the number of registered overseas voters;
- (c) For countries with multiple Posts, each Post shall constitute one precinct, regardless of the number of registered overseas voters.

In all scenario, each Post shall transmit election results directly to the National Board of Canvassers (NBOC).

Section 5. Preparation and Submission of the POPs. The OFOV shall prepare and submit the final POPs to the Commission *En Banc* for approval **on or before 16 December 2024** for its consideration.

Section 6. Submission of Approved POPs to the ITD. After approval of the POPs by the Commission *En Banc*, the OFOV shall submit the final POPs to the Information Technology Department (ITD) for configuration in the Election Management System (EMS).

PART III MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 7. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any part, section, or provision of this Resolution is declared invalid or unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, the remaining provisions or sections shall remain valid and applicable.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. - Any part, section, or provision in other related Resolutions for overseas voting for the 2025 National and Local Elections which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Implementing Office and Department. - The OFOV shall primarily be responsible for the implementation of this Resolution, with the assistance of the Information Technology Department (ITD).

Section 10. Notice and Publication. - The COMELEC Secretary is directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Education and Information Department (EID) for dissemination. The ITD shall likewise be furnished with a copy for posting on the COMELEC website.

Section 11. Effectivity and Suppletory Application of Other Resolutions. -
This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Commission *En Banc*. Other existing and relevant Resolutions issued by the Commission *En Banc* on the conduct of overseas voting and other related activities shall likewise apply to the Office for Overseas Voting suppletorily.

SO ORDERED.

GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA
Chairman

SOCORRO B. INTING
Commissioner

MARLON S. CASQUEJO
Commissioner

AIMEE P. FEROLINO
Commissioner

REY E. BULAY
Commissioner

ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR.
Commissioner

NELSON J. CELIS
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED for publication, April 24, 2024


CONSUELO B DIOLA
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Office of the Commission Secretary